

Federal Labor commits to City Partnerships program

July 2018

On 11 July 2018 Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development Anthony Albanese announced that a Shorten Labor Government will replace the Coalition Government's City Deals with the City Partnerships program.

In a speech delivered to the Sydney Institute, Mr. Albanese identified the lack of independent oversight and guidelines as deficiencies in the current operation of City Deals. Mr. Albanese also stated Labor's concern with the level of engagement with local government and the private sector, leading to confusion regarding the role of councils and the squandering of potential value uplift.

City Partnerships will aim to address the challenges of urban sprawl, traffic congestion and greater population density through collaboration between the three levels of government and the private sector.

City Partnerships

Labor will re-establish the Major Cities Unit within Infrastructure Australia to recommend City Partnerships and assess their progress.

The Unit will update the National Urban Policy, created by the previous Labor Government. The Policy will ensure alignment between City Partnerships and broader strategic objectives in areas including sustainability and smart technology.

An expert panel will be established to update strategic planning guidelines for cities and develop guidelines for City Partnerships. This will occur in consultation with the Minister.

Expanded role for Infrastructure Australia

A future Shorten Labor Government will make a number of reforms to the operation of Infrastructure Australia.

Labor is committed to abolishing the Federal Government's Infrastructure Financing Unit and reallocating its \$7.4 million of funding to Infrastructure Australia. The money will also be used to re-establish the Major Cities Unit.

A Shorten Labor Government will task Infrastructure Australia with placing further conditions on Federal infrastructure grants to states and territories. Procurement plans that involve mid-tier infrastructure firms in major projects will be encouraged, fostering more competition. States and territories will be required to demonstrate plans for training apprentices when undertaking major projects, as well as ensuring new rail and road projects are properly linked with active transport options. Where appropriate, state and territories will be required to demonstrate that designs for new roads incorporate smart technology such as variable speed limits and smooth entry points.

Further information

For more information, please contact your Hawker Britton consultant [Simon Banks](#) on +61 419 638 587.

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